GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6066
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
CARGO OPERATIONS OF INDIAN AIRLINES
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines (IA) carries an average of 8500 tonnes of Cargo on domestic routes and 250 tonnes on International routes;

(b) if so, whether in-efficient operations restricts its ability to carry more cargo;

(c) the details of potential of growth in cargo handling with improved service and competitive charges by IA;

(d) whether IA proposes to mordernise its cargo operation to improve performance;

(e) if so, the details of proposed changes alongwith the level of automation proposed for IA;

(f) the cost of such modernisation;

(g) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(h) the benefits likely to accure to IA through such modernisation drive?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK)

(a): No, Sir. Indian Airlines has carried 70929 tonnes of cargo on domestic routes and 20403 tonnes on international routes during 2002-03.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The sub-group appointed by the Government to review the performance during Ninth Five Year Plan and projected traffic growth for the Tenth Plan period has estimated the likely growth rate in cargo traffic for the next five years - for domestic cargo carriage by 5.9% and for international cargo carriage by 7.2% per annum.

(d), (e), (f), (g) and (h): Indian Airlines is primarily a passenger airline. The cargo carriage is limited to the space available after payload accounting for passenger, their baggage and mail. Indian Airlines has invested funds in separate cargo warehouses. There are cold storage facilities at some airports for perishable cargo. Indian Airlines offer attractrive rates for air freight. In view of its user friendly systems, services and rates, it remains the lead airline in India for movement of air freight. The airline has also obtained ISO 9002 Certifcation for its cargo marketing and handling activities.